

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 10838STUS01U (NORT10-00206)
U.S. SERIAL NO. 09/464,076
PATENT

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows, substituting any amended claim(s) for the corresponding pending claim(s):

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B1
Cont.
1. (Currently Amended) A method of converting text to speech comprising:
receiving a list of textual units, where each said textual unit is one of a word, a prefix or a
suffix;
for each textual unit comprising a word,
locating an associated speech sample in a memory; and
appending said associated speech sample to an output signal.

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2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein one said textual unit in said list is
indicated as not having an associated speech sample in memory and said method further comprises:
passing said indicated textual unit to a secondary text to speech engine;
receiving a speech sample converted from said indicated textual unit from said secondary text
to speech engine; and
appending said converted speech sample to said output signal.

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1 3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein each said speech sample in said
2 memory comprises a processed recording of a voice talent and said secondary text to speech engine
3 comprises a phonetic text to speech engine based on said voice talent.

B1/2
unit
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1 4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein a consecutive plurality of said textual
units in said list represent a whole word, said method further comprising:
for each textual unit in said consecutive plurality of said textual units, locating an associated
4 speech sample in said memory;
5 creating a speech unit by splicing together said plurality of associated speech samples; and
6 appending said speech unit to said output signal.

1 5. (Original) The method of claim 4 further comprising, after said splicing,
2 processing said speech unit to remove discontinuities.

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1 6. (Original) A method of pre-processing a text file comprising:

2 receiving a text file;

3 parsing said text file into textual units, where each said parsed textual unit is one of a word,

4 a prefix or a suffix; and

5 for each one of said parsed textual units, if said one of said parsed textual units corresponds

6 to a stored textual unit in a vocabulary of textual units, adding said stored textual unit to a list.

B-1
5 7. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising, for each one of said parsed

2 textual units, if said one of said parsed textual units does not correspond to one of said stored textual

3 units,

4 marking said parsed textual unit as being out of vocabulary; and

5 adding said marked textual unit to said list.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 7 where said marking comprises pre-pending a

2 character to said textual unit.

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9. (Currently Amended) A text to speech converter comprising:

means for receiving a list of textual units, where each said textual unit is one of a word, a

prefix or a suffix;

for each textual unit comprising a word,

means for locating an associated speech sample in a memory; and

means for appending said associated speech sample to an output signal.

10. (Currently Amended) A text to speech converter comprising a processor operable

to:

receive a list of textual units, where each said textual unit is one of a word, a prefix or a

suffix;

for each textual unit comprising a word,

locate an associated speech sample in a memory; and

append said associated speech sample to an output signal.

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11. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium for providing program control

to a processor, said processor included in a text to speech converter, said computer readable medium

adapting said processor to be operable to:

receive a list of textual units, where each said textual unit is one of a word, a prefix or a
suffix;

for each textual unit comprising a word,

locate an associated speech sample in a memory; and

append said associated speech sample to an output signal.

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12. (Currently Amended) A text to speech conversion system comprising:

a text file pre-processor operable to:

receive a text file;

parse said text file into textual units, where each said parsed textual unit is one of a

word, a prefix or a suffix; and

for each one of said parsed textual units, if said one of said parsed textual units corresponds to a stored textual unit in a vocabulary of textual units, add said stored textual units to a list;

and a textual unit processor operable to:

receive said list of textual units, where each said textual unit is one of a word, a prefix or a suffix;

for each textual unit [, of] in said list comprising a word:

locate an associated speech sample in a memory; and

append said associated speech sample to an output signal.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Original) A data structure including a field for a textual unit and a field for a speech sample associated with said textual unit, where said textual unit is one of a word, a prefix, or a suffix.

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1 15. (Previously Added) The data structure of claim 14 further comprising a field for
2 a phoneme that said textual unit starts with, and a field for a phoneme that the textual unit ends with.

1 16. (Previously Added) The method of claim 7 further comprising:
2 passing said marked textual unit to a secondary text to speech engine;
3 receiving a speech sample converted from said marked textual unit from said secondary text
4 to speech engine; and
B1/62X appending said converted speech sample to said output signal.

1 17. (Previously Added) The method of claim 8 further comprising:
2 passing said marked textual unit to a secondary text to speech engine;
3 receiving a speech sample converted from said marked textual unit from said secondary text
4 to speech engine; and
5 appending said converted speech sample to said output signal.

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- 1 18. (Previously Added) The text to speech conversion system of claim 12 wherein:
2 said pre-processor is further operable to:
3 for each one of said parsed textual units, if said one of said parsed textual units does
4 not correspond to one of said stored textual units, marking said parsed textual unit as being out of
5 vocabulary and add said marked textual unit to said list; and
6 said textual unit processor further comprises:
7 a secondary text to speech engine operable to receive said marked textual unit and
8 convert said marked textual unit into a speech sample.